

image

THE AVENGING ANTI-HERO!

SPAWN[®]

TREMOR
IS BACK!

DIGITAL
EDITION
222
AUG

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BY THE
IMAGE
COMICS
AUTHORITY

MCFARIANE
parody of
Todd
+fco





PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Even as he gains a firmer understanding of the many mysteries swirling around him, a darkness is growing within Jim Downing, the world's newest Hellspawn – a darkness that may devour everything he's built and everything he is.

Haunted by dreams that hint at this internal struggle with the true nature of his powers, Jim's focus remains on uncovering the secrets of his previous life. But... the arrival of Richard Masullo, AKA Tremor, threatens to complicate matters further.

Is Tremor friend or foe? Either way, Jim is determined to maintain momentum in his quest for the truth -- no matter the cost. What chance does Tremor have against Jim's full power?



Jim Downing (Spawn) – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn... and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



The Program – A clandestine military operation with deep-rooted ties to events from throughout Spawn's 20-year existence. Hidden within the secrets of The Program, also known as Project: RAGNOROK, lies the truth Jim seeks, and the dark heart of a past better left buried.



Richard Masullo (Tremor) – Transformed into the hulking monster known as Tremor by the same clandestine government program that Jim Downing once oversaw, Richard is a man on a mission, crossing the country to confront Jim about their shared past -- but is he friend or foe?

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LIKE I SAID--
I REALLY CAN'T
CONTROL WHAT
I'M DOING ALL
THE TIME.

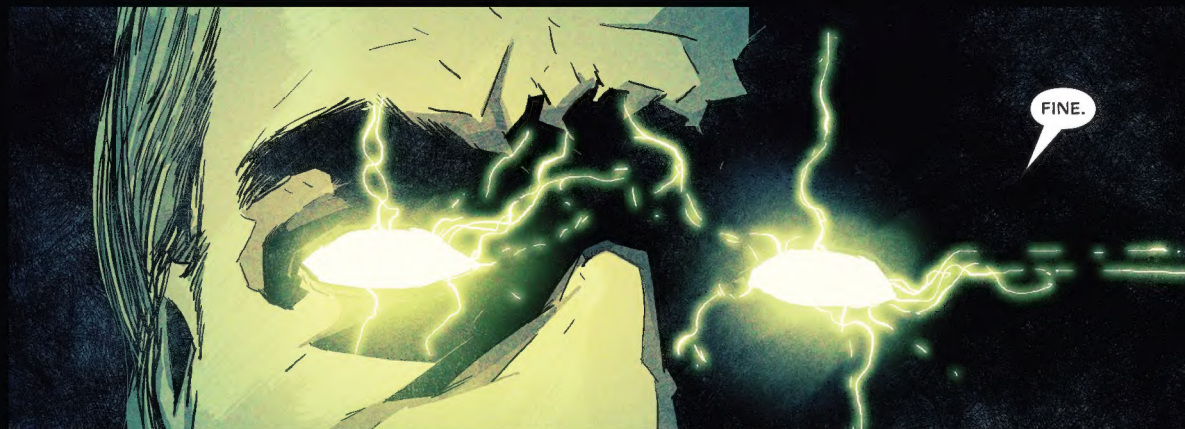
YOU SURE
YOU STILL
WANT TO DO
THIS?



NO.

BUT I
DON'T HAVE ANY
CHOICE. BECAUSE IF
I HAVE TO LIVE LIKE
THIS MUCH LONGER--
I'D RATHER BE
DEAD.

SO STOP
PRETENDING
YOU *GIVE A
SHIT* ABOUT
ME AND GET
THIS OVER
WITH.



FINE.



THEN I'D
ADVISE YOU TO
GET PREPARED--
BECAUSE THIS
MIGHT *HURT* A
LITTLE.





THAT'S
IT. WE'RE
DONE.

Did ... do
you think
it worked?



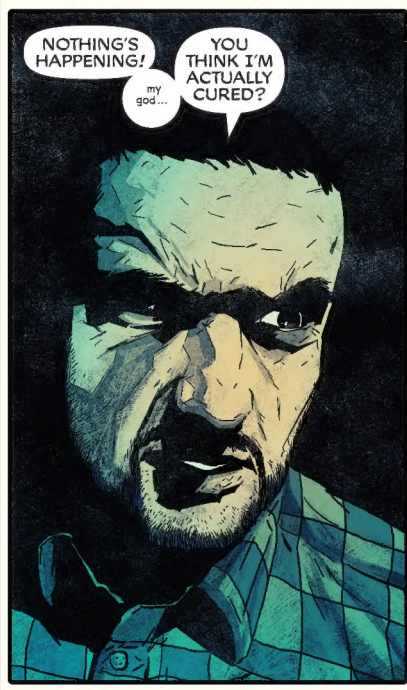
DON'T
KNOW. TRY AND
TRANSFORM
AGAIN.

NNGH!



I DON'T
FEEL ANY-
THING.

THEN TRY
HARDER!



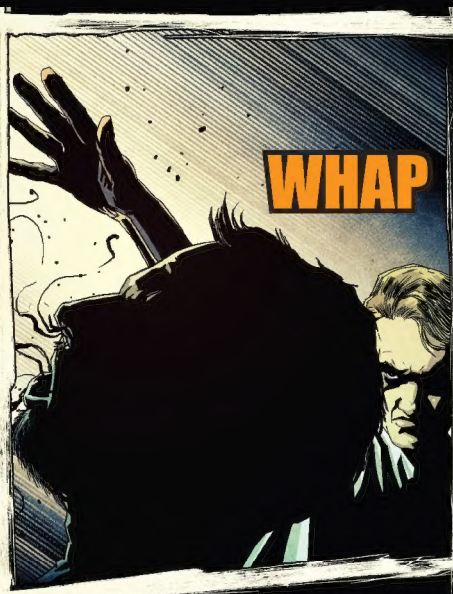
NOTHING'S
HAPPENING!

my
god...

YOU
THINK I'M
ACTUALLY
CURED?



THWAK







SO THAT'S IT?

I'LL NEVER TRANSFORM AGAIN?

I DON'T KNOW THAT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE 'TREMOR' IS GONE-- AT LEAST FOR NOW.

I GUESS I OWE YOU MY GRATITUDE.

I'M NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THAT.

AS I TOLD YOU, THE ONLY REASON I DID THIS IS BECAUSE YOU MADE ME REMEMBER *SOMETHING*. AND IT WASN'T YOU--IT WAS THE BEAST! I DON'T KNOW YOU... BUT WHEN YOU TURNED INTO TREMOR IT TRIGGERED SOMETHING.

YOU AND TREMOR ARE A PIECE OF MY PAST-- A PIECE OF THIS CONVOLUTED PUZZLE IN MY BRAIN. AND NOW THAT I'VE TAKEN AWAY THE THREAT OF YOU TURNING ON ME-- IT'S TIME YOU HELD UP YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN.

BUT FIRST, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO SEE.

Moments Later.



THIS IS INCREDIBLE. HOW'D YOU GET ALL THIS?

DOESN'T MATTER. I JUST DID.

THEN MY INSTINCTS WERE RIGHT.

ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT US BOTH BEING PATIENTS AT THE SAME FACILITY. SO, WHEN DID THEY GET THEIR HOOKS INTO YOU? I WAS PATIENT 33.

I THINK I'M 47.



WHOA! I DIDN'T THINK THEY WENT THAT HIGH. THAT MEANS THOSE BASTARDS EXPERIMENTED ON *ANOTHER FOURTEEN* AFTER ME? I DIDN'T THINK THE PROJECT LASTED THAT LONG BEFORE IT WENT BELLY UP.

DO YOU KNOW IF THERE WERE ANY MORE AFTER YOU?

NO.

BUT I DON'T THINK I WAS JUST A PATIENT. SOMEHOW I FEEL LIKE... LIKE I HAD SOME KIND OF AUTHORITY THERE.

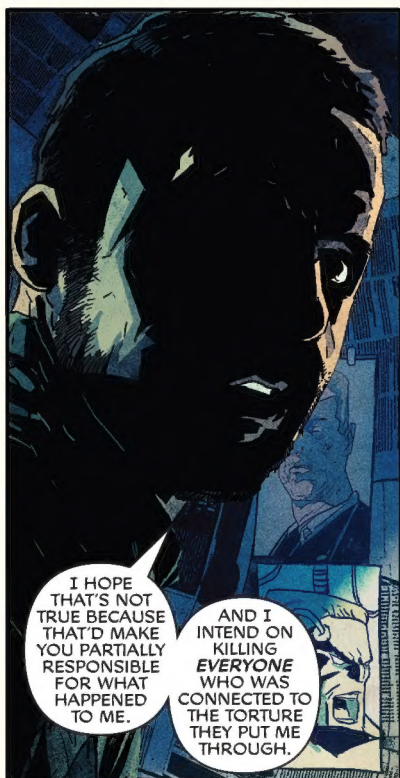


AUTHORITY?

I HEARD THEY USED EMPLOYEES FROM TIME TO TIME FOR THEIR SHIT-- BUT FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I NEVER SAW YOU WHILE THEY HAD ME THERE.



I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT AN EMPLOYEE. I'M SAYING I THINK I HAD A HAND IN THE CORPORATE OPERATIONS AT A HIGH LEVEL.



I HOPE THAT'S NOT TRUE BECAUSE THAT'D MAKE YOU PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.

AND I INTEND ON KILLING **EVERYONE** WHO WAS CONNECTED TO THE TORTURE THEY PUT ME THROUGH.



BUT YOU WANT THE TOP DOG-- **THIS IS HIM!**

THIS IS THE SICK BASTARD THAT STARTED AND THEN OVERSAW **'THE PROJECT.'** HE SELECTED HIS VICTIMS AND HAND PICKED EVERY DOCTOR THAT WORKED FOR HIM. SO YOU WANT ANSWERS? START WITH HIM. THOUGH, LAST I HEARD HE WENT CRAZY AND DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE.

DIRECTOR KRAMER. DON'T ASK ME WHAT HIS FIRST NAME WAS BECAUSE NO ONE CALLED HIM ANYTHING OTHER THAN DIRECTOR KRAMER. **EVER!**

I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF PICTURES UP HERE-- BUT COME TAKE A LOOK. DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?



I'VE HAD THESE FLASHES-- MEMORIES-- THAT I WAS THERE. THAT I STOOD THERE WATCHING OVER THESE EXPERIMENTS.

AND IF THAT'S TRUE, AND IF I'M NOT HIM, I'M SOMEONE VERY CLOSE TO HIM. BUT IF I WAS HIM-- THEN HOW-- WHY DON'T I LOOK LIKE HIM? THAT'S WHERE I GO CRAZY. THINKING I MIGHT BE SOMEONE WHO OBVIOUSLY ISN'T ME.





ARE YOU KIDDING? THAT'S WHAT THEY DID THERE.

THEY DISSECTED AND DESTROYED ALL REMNANTS OF WHO WE WERE. NONE OF THEIR 'EXPERIMENTS' WERE SUPPOSED TO BE RECOGNIZABLE WHEN THEY WERE DONE. DON'T YOU GET THAT?!



LOOK WHAT THEY DID TO ME!



THEY CHANGED EVERYTHING-- BUT INSTEAD OF BEING SATISFIED WITH ALTERING MY HUMAN APPEARANCE-- THEY KEPT PUSHING IT.

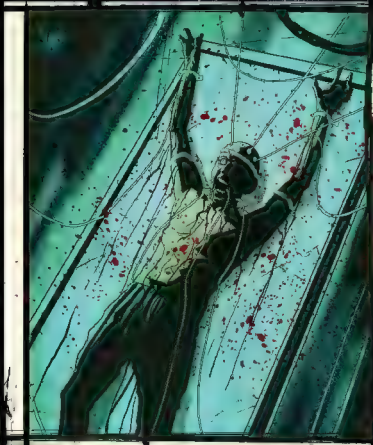
AND PUSHING IT!

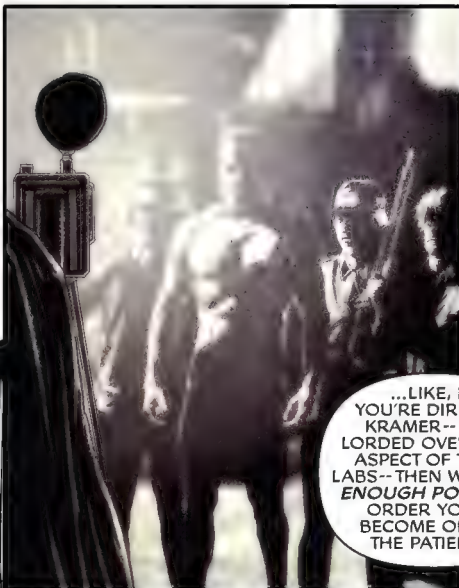


THEY WERE HOPING TO CREATE SOME KIND OF 'SUPER-HUMAN' BUT ALL THEY KEPT MAKING WERE 'FRANKENSTEINS.' AND AS EACH EXPERIMENT FAILED THE NEXT OPERATIONS BECAME EVEN MORE RADICAL. THERE WERE EVEN A FEW DOCTORS THAT WE HEARD HAD TIES TO HITLER'S ORIGINAL DEATH CAMPS.

THAT WAS THEIR BLUEPRINT! THE GOD-DAMN NAZI EXPERIMENTS OF THE FORTIES! ONLY *THIS TIME* THEY HAD MODERN MEDICINE AND TECHNOLOGY ON THEIR SIDE. DO YOU KNOW THE DEPTHS WITH WHICH MODERN SCIENCE ALLOWS THE DEPRAVED TO ANNIHILATE ANOTHER HUMAN BEING?

SO CHANGING YOUR LOOKS? THAT WAS EASY FOR THEM. YOUR QUESTION SHOULD BE MUCH BIGGER THAN THAT...





...LIKE, IF YOU'RE DIRECTOR KRAMER-- WHO LORDED OVER EVERY ASPECT OF THOSE LABS-- THEN WHO HAD ENOUGH POWER TO ORDER YOU TO BECOME ONE OF THE PATIENTS?

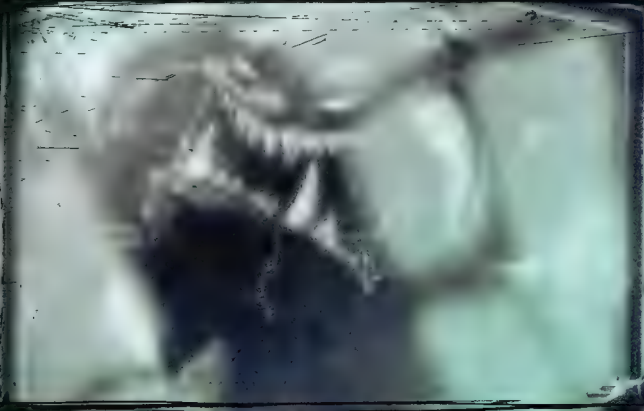


AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY AREN'T YOU DEAD ALREADY IF YOU HAD SUCH HIGH POWERED ENEMIES OUT TO DESTROY YOU?



BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T EXPERIMENT ON PEOPLE THEY LIKED.


SO-- SURELY YOU MUST HAVE SOME RECOLLECTION OF WHAT THEY DID TO YOU?





NO, I
DON'T.

BUT I'M
CURIOUS...IF
I'M THE GUY THAT
SELECTED YOU TO
BE TORTURED AND
MADE YOUR LIFE A
LIVING HELL--WHY
ARE YOU STILL
HELPING ME?



BECAUSE I DON'T
CARE WHO YOU ARE. I'LL
DEAL WITH THAT LATER. AND
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG-- I'M NOT
HELPING YOU--YOU'RE HELPING
ME. BECAUSE THE FIRST TIME I SAW
YOU ON TV I KNEW WE WERE THE
SAME. AND I KNEW THAT YOU
HAD A CHANCE OF GETTING
RID OF THE CREATURE
INSIDE ME.

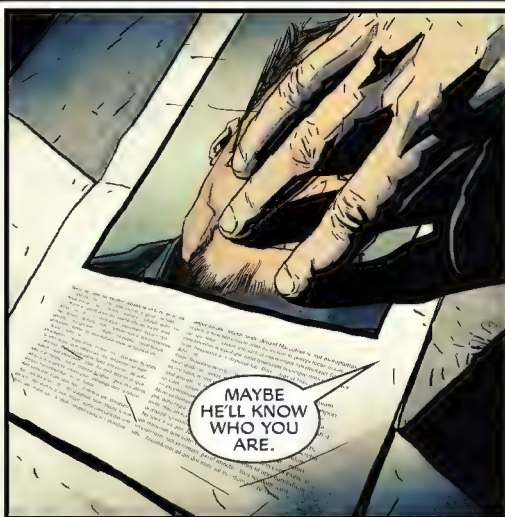
THAT WAS
MY ONLY GOAL.
GOT IT?! TO
TAKE CARE OF
MYSELF.



BUT I'M SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT IF YOU JUST CURED ME--YOU'RE *THE ONE* WITH THE FIREPOWER IN THIS ROOM, AND I DON'T LIKE MY ODDS IF YOU GET PISSSED AT ME.

SO...YOU WANT A FEW MORE CLUES TO WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE--THEN START WITH THIS GUY.

THEY CALL HIM 'THE AGENT.' HE USED TO WORK AT THE LABS. BUT WHEN EVERYTHING WENT DYSFUNCTIONAL AND THE PLACE SHUT DOWN THIS GUY STARTED A 'GUN-FOR-HIRE' BUSINESS WITH SOME OF THE REJECTS THEY EXPERIMENTED ON.



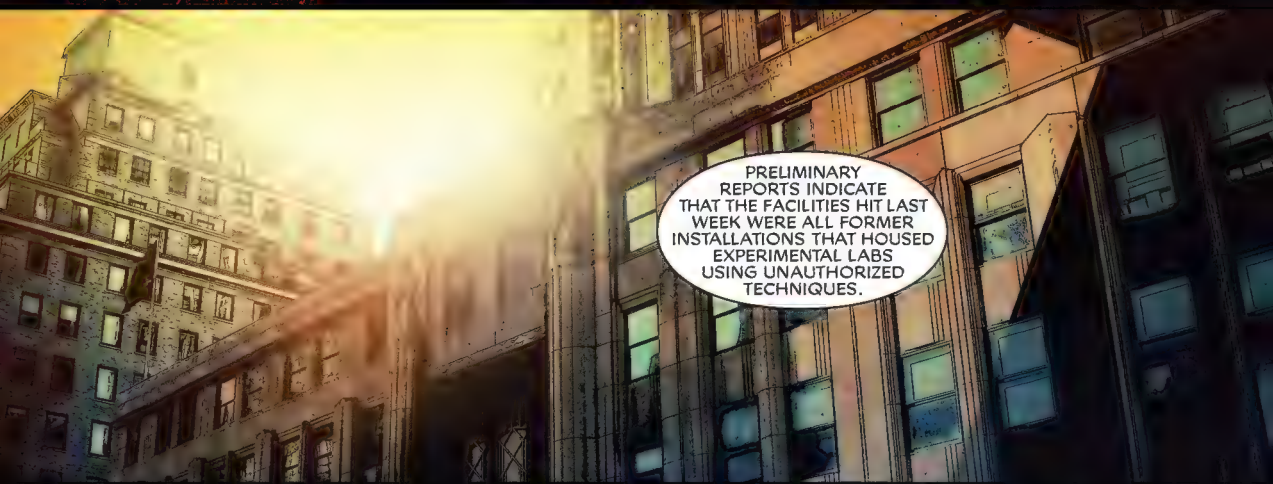
MAYBE HE'LL KNOW WHO YOU ARE.



THANKS, RICHARD. I'LL DO THAT. I'LL LOOK HIM UP...



BUT LET ME SEE IF I CAN NOW MAKE SOMETHING *CLEAR TO YOU!* YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNLESS I SAY SO! I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET--AND UNTIL I AM YOU DON'T LEAVE MY SIGHT!



PRELIMINARY
REPORTS INDICATE
THAT THE FACILITIES HIT LAST
WEEK WERE ALL FORMER
INSTALLATIONS THAT HOUSED
EXPERIMENTAL LABS
USING UNAUTHORIZED
TECHNIQUES.



WE
CORROBORATED
ATTACKS INSIDE
ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA,
NIGERIA AND
CANADA.

BUT OUR
CURRENT INTEL *IS*
LIMITED SINCE NO
SURVIVORS WERE
FOUND AT ANY OF
THE FOUR ATTACK
SITES.

THE ONLY
REASON WE'VE
BEEN ABLE TO
CONNECT THE FOUR
IS BECAUSE THE
SAME THINGS WERE
MISSING AT EACH OF
THEM-- FILES TO A
SECRET OPERATION
CALLED 'THE
PROJECT.'



WEAPONS.
ARTILLERY.
LAB EQUIPMENT.
NONE OF THAT
WAS TOUCHED.
WHOEVER DID THIS
KNEW EXACTLY
WHAT THEY WERE
LOOKING
FOR.



OUR SATELLITE
PHOTOS SHOW THAT
DAMAGE WAS LIMITED TO
THE SPECIFIC BUILDING--
WHICH HELD THE FILES--
EACH TIME.



WHAT'S OUR MISSION ON THIS?

I WAS GETTING TO THAT.

WE BELIEVE THAT JIM DOWNING IS SOMEHOW TIED TO ALL THESE ATTACKS. OR AT THE VERY LEAST HAS SOME PERIPHERAL CONNECTION.

THE GUY FROM THE NEWS?



YES, IT'S IN THE REPORTS I JUST HANDED ALL OF YOU. WE THINK THE SAME FACILITIES THAT CREATED OTHER 'SUPER HUMANS' MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MR. DOWNING'S LATENT POWERS. WHICH WOULD MAKE HIS WHOLE 'MESSIAH-THING' MUCH EASIER TO EXPLAIN. OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE THE EVIDENCE FOR THAT CONCLUSION.

WHICH IS WHY WE'VE ALREADY ATTAINED ALL THE MEDICAL REPORTS FROM DOWNING'S CURRENT FLEET OF DOCTORS. THEY'RE TRYING TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HIS POWERS CAN BE SAFELY USED ON OTHERS-- AS HIS NEWLY FORMED FOUNDATION HOPES THEY CAN.

BUT UNTIL WE CAN CONCLUSIVELY DETERMINE THE ORIGIN OF HIS POWERS-- OUR GOVERNMENT WANTS US TO MONITOR HIM AS A POSSIBLE DOMESTIC THREAT.



THE PROBLEM WE'VE HAD TO WORK AROUND SO FAR IS THE CONSTANT MEDIA ATTENTION THAT SEEMS TO SURROUND HIM. I CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH HOW IMPORTANT IT WILL BE TO NOT LET THE MEDIA CATCH A GLIMPSE OF ANY OF YOU.





UNFORTUNATELY, OUR JOBS WILL BE THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT SINCE WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO BUG HIS APARTMENT OR GET ANY SURVEILLANCE INTO THE APARTMENT BUILDING HE'S STAYING IN.

EXCUSE ME, AGENT FITZGERALD, BUT WHAT'S THE HANG UP THERE?

THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY THE RAMUS CORPORATION, AND THE STRUCTURE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN BUILT WITH SPIES LIKE US IN MIND. THE GOOD NEWS IS I HAVE A CONTACT FROM THE INSIDE WHO I'M SLOWLY WORKING ON.



HE HASN'T COMPLETELY COME ON BOARD-- SO I'LL STICK WITH HIM UNTIL HE DOES.

IN THE MEANTIME IT APPEARS THIS COULD BE A LONG, TOUGH CASE SO I'LL NEED YOU TO STAY VIGILANT. LET YOUR FAMILIES KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO BE OCCUPIED ON THIS FOR A WHILE.

AND IF YOU NEED ANY **ADDITIONAL MOTIVATION**-- WE'RE MISSING A FEW OF OUR OWN AGENTS FROM THOSE FOUR ATTACKS. THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN WILL BE NOTIFIED LATER TODAY.



THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN. BE SAFE.



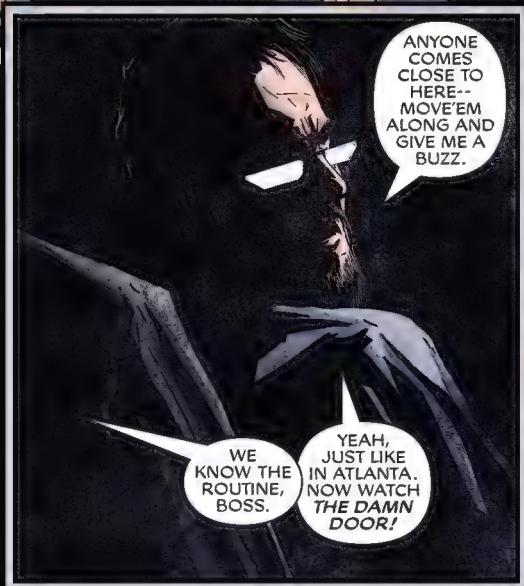
THERE'S A
COUPLE CARS HERE
BUT THEY MIGHT JUST
BE PARKED HERE FOR
THAT BAR DOWN THE
STREET. IT DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE ANY LIGHTS ARE
ON INSIDE.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
US TO DO,
BOSS?



STAY HERE
AND WATCH THE
DOOR.

I NEED TO
GRAB A FEW
THINGS THEN WE
ROLL AGAIN.



ANYONE
COMES
CLOSE TO
HERE--
MOVE'EM
ALONG AND
GIVE ME A
BUZZ.

WE
KNOW THE
ROUTINE,
BOSS.

YEAH,
JUST LIKE
IN ATLANTA.
NOW WATCH
THE DAMN
DOOR!



MAN,
WHO PUT
A STICK
UP HIS
ASS?!

I MEAN THE
DUDE'S ALWAYS
BEEN SQUIRRELY, BUT
THESE LAST FEW
WEEKS HE'S BEEN OUT
OF CONTROL.

JUST
LET IT GO
AND DO
YOUR
JOB.



C'MON, CODY. YOU KNOW ATLANTA WASN'T MY FAULT. HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT GIRL WAS A DUDE? WITH ALL THE MAKE-UP AND STUFF--YOU EVEN SAID YOU MIGHT HAVE MADE THE SAME MISTAKE, TOO.

LOOK, BRO. I'M NOT HERE TO JUDGE YOU.



ALL I'M SAYING IS SINCE THE BOSS IS GETTING A LITTLE PARANOID WE JUST NEED TO FOCUS ON OUR JOB AND LET HIM DEAL WITH WHATEVER HE'S DEALING WITH.



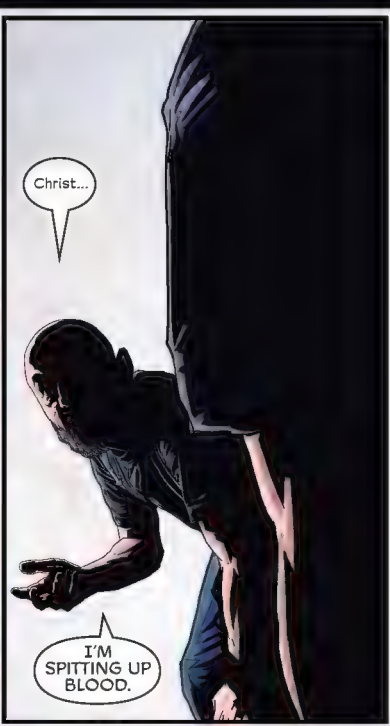
BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WEIRD WE'VE BEEN TO FIVE DIFFERENT CITIES THIS WEEK AND HE WON'T TELL US WHAT HE'S DOING?

AS I SAID, I'M NOT HERE TO JUDGE. YOU JUST NEED TO CALM DOWN--CAUSE YOU'RE GETTING ALL SWEATY ON ME RIGHT NOW.



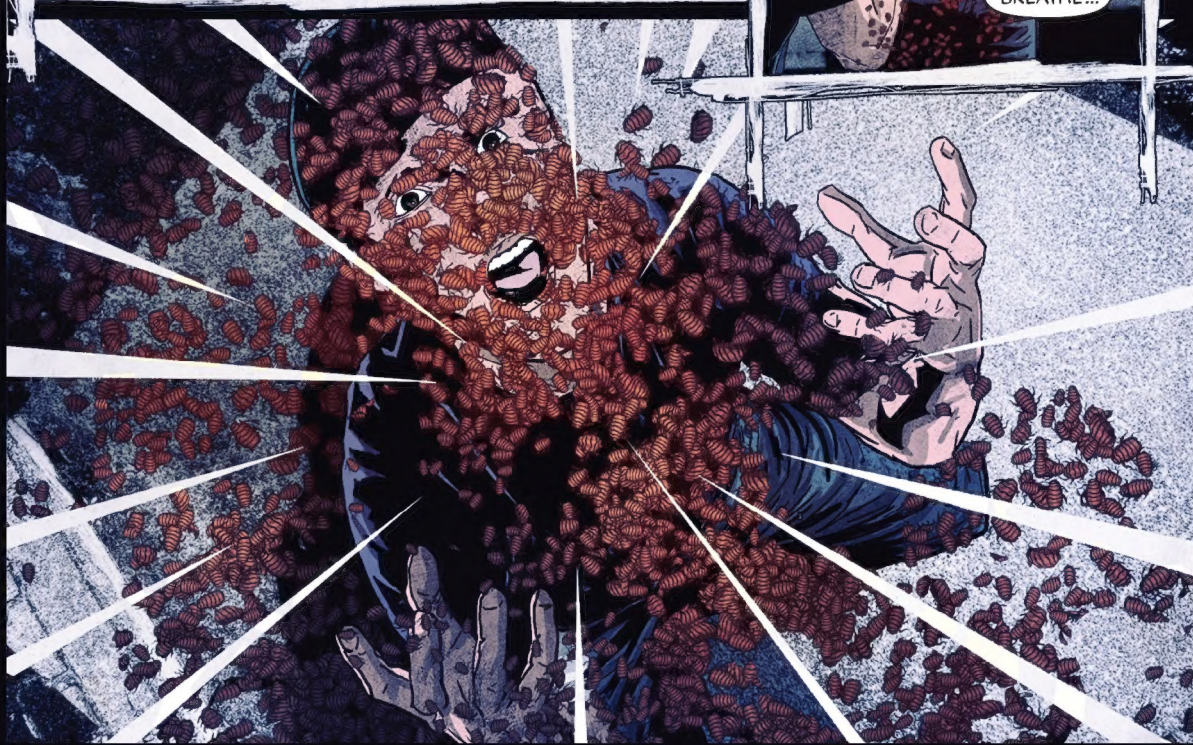
KoFF!
KoFF!
KoFF!

NOW YOU'RE HYPER-VENTILATING ON ME.



Christ...

I'M SPITTING UP BLOOD.





**DON'T
MOVE! AND
DON'T TURN
AROUND!**

**I WANT YOU
TO ANSWER ME
ONE SIMPLE
QUESTION...**

**ARE YOU
THE ONE THEY
CALL 'THE
AGENT'?**

NEXT ISSUE:
INTERROGATION





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE